CLAIMS

1. A thermal conductivity type pressure gauge comprises a gauge head being rotatably mountable in a vessel whose environmental pressure is to be measured and an elongate electrical filament mounted in the gauge head, the gauge head having an inlet wherethrough the electrical filament is exposed to the environmental pressure within the vessel and the filament having directional component lengths in two orthogonal axes, one of the orthogonal axes being parallel to the axis of rotation of the gauge head.

2. A thermal conductivity type pressure gauge as claimed in claim 1 wherein the gauge is a Pirani gauge

3. A thermal conductivity type pressure gauge as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein the directional component lengths of the filament are substantially equal and the filament subtends an angle to the axis of rotation of about 45 degrees.

4. A thermal conductivity type pressure gauge as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the directional component lengths are such as to subtend the filament an angle to the rotational axis of between 30 and 60 degrees.

5. A thermal conductivity type pressure gauge as claimed in claim 4 wherein the filament subtends an angle of between 40 and 50 degrees.

6. A thermal conductivity type pressure gauge as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the filament crosses the axis of rotation.

7. A thermal conductivity type pressure gauge as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the filament comprises a length of spiralled or crimped wire.

8. A thermal conductivity type pressure gauge as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6 wherein the filament comprises a straight length of wire.

9. A thermal conductivity type pressure gauge as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the gauge is configured for use in a vacuum.